

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica characterized by

BET $350 - 550 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

DBP number $[[320]] \underline{350} - 400 \text{ g}/100 \text{ g}$

d_{50} $5 - 15 \mu\text{m}$, and

tamped density $20 - [[90]] \underline{70} \text{ g/l.}$

2. (Original): The precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle size distribution

$$\frac{d_{90} - d_{10}}{d_{50}}$$

is from 0.90 to 1.5.

3. (Original): The precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gloss angle gloss values are:

60° $15 - 25$ and

85° $50 - 70.$

4. (Original): The precipitated silica as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gloss angle gloss values are:

60° $15 - 25$ and

85° $50 - 70.$

5. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1 as a matting agent to said paint.

6. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1 as a matting agent.

7. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 2 as a matting agent to said paint.

8. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 2 as a matting agent.

9. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 3 as a matting agent to said paint.

10. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 3 as a matting agent.

11. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 4 as a matting agent to said paint.

12. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 4 as a matting agent.

13. (Currently Amended): A wax-coated precipitated silica characterized by

BET 350 - 550 m²/g

DBP number [[320]] 350 - 400 g/100 g

d₅₀ 5 - 15 µm

tamped density 20 - [[90]] 70 g/l

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Response to Office Action dated September 7, 2006

carbon content 2 - 18% by weight.

14. (Original): The wax-coated precipitated silica as claimed in claim 13, wherein the particle size distribution

$$\frac{d_{90} - d_{10}}{d_{50}}$$

is from 0.90 to 1.5.

15. (Original): A wax-coated precipitated silica as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gloss angle gloss values are:

60° 15 - 25 and

85° 50 - 70.

16. (Original): A wax-coated precipitated silica as claimed in claim 14, wherein the gloss angle gloss values are:

60° 15 - 25 and

85° 50 - 70.

17. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 13 as a matting agent to said paint.

18. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 13 as a matting agent.

19. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 14 as a matting agent to said paint.

20. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 14 as a matting agent.

21. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 15 as a matting agent to said paint.

22. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 15 as a matting agent.

23. (Original): A process for increasing the matting effect of a paint or ink comprising adding the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 16 as a matting agent to said paint.

24. (Original): A paint or ink, which includes the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 16 as a matting agent.

25. (New): The precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, wherein the d_{50} value is from 7-11 μm .

26. (New): The wax-coated precipitated silica as claimed in claim 13, wherein the d_{50} value is from 7-11 μm .